

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 03411 160617Z

15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

IGA-01 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 SCCT-01 /070 W

----- 049240

P R 160540Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3859

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3411

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LA, RP

SUBJ: SITUATION IN SAVANNAKHET

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED CONFIRMATION THAT OUR COLLEAGUES IN SAVANNAKHET WERE ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WOULD STAY THERE. "A FORM OF VOLUNTARY HOUSE ARREST," AS SANDY STONE PUT IT.

2. WE HAVE BEEN PRESSING THE GOVERNMENT FOR AN EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE SITUATION AND PARTICULARLY FOR GETTING ALL OUR COLLEAGUES OUT OF THERE. WE HAVE JUST NOW BEEN INFORMED THAT THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR, PHENG PHONGSAVAN, AND HIS SECRETARY OF STATE, DEAUNE SOUNNARATH, WILL BE GOING DOWN THERE THIS AFTERNOON TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE DEMONSTRATORS. WE WERE ADVISED THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, TO WAIT UNTIL THEY ASSESS THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND BEFORE SENDING IN PLANES TO EVACUATE OUR FRIENDS. WE HOPE TO HAVE A GREEN LIGHT TOMORROW AND WILL BE STANDING BY TO DO THIS.

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3. ACTING USAID DIRECTOR RAMSEY HAS ALSO RECEIVED A LETTER FROM TIAO JAISVAD VISOUTHIPHONG, ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HOSPITALS, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, IN WHICH THE DOCTOR MAKES AN "URGENT REQUEST" TO EVACUATE THE DOCTORS AND NURSES AT THE OB HOSPITAL AT KENG KOK, WHICH IS SOME 35 KILOMETERS FROM SAVANNAKHET. THERE APPEARS TO BE A DEMONSTRATION DEVELOPING THERE ALSO. WE HAVE SENT A PORTER AIRCRAFT TO EVACUATE THE SIX FILIPINOS AT THIS HOSPITAL AND ARE IN TOUCH WITH THEM. WE HAVE ALSO ADVISED THE PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR, JOSE EVANGELISTA, OF THE LETTER AND OF OUR ACTIONS.
CHAPMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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